

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the tributes to Daniel Patrick Moynihan, the late Senator from New York, be printed as a Senate document, and that Members have until 12 noon, Friday, April 11, to submit said tributes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEASURES PLACED ON CALENDAR—S. 711, S. 712, S. 718 and S. 721

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I understand there are four bills at the desk which are due for a second reading. I ask that it be in order to read the titles of the bills en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will state the bills by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 711) to amend title 37, United States Code, to alleviate delay in the payment of the Selected Reserve reenlistment bonus to members of Selective Reserve who are mobilized.

A bill (S. 712) to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide Survivor Benefit Plan annuities for surviving spouses of Reservists not eligible for retirement who die from a cause incurred or aggravated while on inactive-duty training.

A bill (S. 718) to provide a monthly allotment of free telephone calling time to members of the United States Armed Forces stationed outside the United States who are directly supporting military operations in Iraq or Afghanistan.

A bill (S. 721) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the combat zone income tax exclusion to include income for the period of transit to the combat zone and to remove the limitation on such exclusion for commissioned officers, and for other purposes.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed en bloc to the measures, and I object to further proceeding en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bills will be placed on the calendar.

ARMED FORCES TAX FAIRNESS ACT OF 2003—Continued

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I rise today to share my strong support for this much needed and much deserved military tax package. I commend Chairman GRASSLEY and my many colleagues who have worked so hard on this bill for such a long time. As we all know, this tax package is long overdue.

As my colleagues know, the Armed Forces Tax Fairness Act of 2003 would provide critical tax relief to our service men and women. Specifically, this bill would remedy several tax problems that unfairly penalize the men and women serving in our military and Foreign Service. Certainly now, more than ever, we must correct these inequities. It is the right thing to do.

Mr. President, there are many service men and women from my home

state of Ohio serving in our military today. My wife, Fran, and I pray for all of them and their families—we pray that they will be safe, wherever they are and in whatever capacity they are working. Many of these courageous men and women are in Iraq right now. Four of them from Ohio have been injured or are listed as missing. Both Army CPT Gregory Holden from Huron, OH, and Marine Corps Sgt. Jose Torres from Lorain, OH, have been injured in the war. And Army PVT Brandon Sloan from Bedford Heights, OH, and Marine Corps MSgt Robert Dowdy from Cleveland are listed as missing. I would like their families to know that we are praying for them. We pray for their recovery and their safe return home.

Mr. President, as we debate the merits of this bill, I would like to take a moment to discuss a specific provision that I have worked on for more than two years—and that is a provision that would allow our National Guard and Reserve members to take deductions for travel expenses incurred getting to and from duty assignments. This initiative stems from legislation I first introduced two years ago, and then again this past January.

Specifically, the provision would provide a tax deduction for overnight travel costs incurred more than 100 miles from the taxpayer's home. These expenses include meals, transportation, and lodging up to the amount allowable under Department of Defense per diem allowances.

Mr. President, this provision is a positive step in the right direction, as approximately 225,000 Reservists and Guardsmen incur significant out-of-pocket expense—expenses that often match or even exceed their military take-home pay.

The restoration of the tax deductibility of these expenses would help alleviate the personal and financial costs of these individuals' patriotic efforts. And, quite frankly, our servicemen and women should not be put in the position of subsidizing their own training.

I thank Chairman GRASSLEY, Senator BAUCUS, and the Finance Committee for working with my office to include my provision. I also would like to thank Senator MCCAIN and my 61 colleagues who co-sponsored this legislation with me last year. The incredible number of bipartisan co-sponsors demonstrates the widespread support our legislation carries, as well as the tremendous support we all share for our troops.

Mr. President, we owe these brave Americans our thanks and our deep and abiding gratitude for their service and dedication to our country and all that it represents. Whether in the streets of Baghdad, the deserts of Kuwait, or the caves of Afghanistan, we must never forget those men and women, who serve to uphold the ideals of our great Nation.

They have sacrificed so much not only to protect our freedom, liberty,

and way of life here at home, but also to promote those ideals abroad.

Mr. President, this entire military tax package is an important sign of support for those called to serve, as well as their families. I urge my colleagues to support it.

I thank the Chair and yield the Floor.

Mr. BAUCUS. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, thousands of men and women from Montana are currently stationed overseas, be it in Iraq, Afghanistan, South Korea, Southeast Asia or in other supporting missions throughout the United States and the rest of the world.

These brave and dedicated soldiers have chosen to join the Armed Forces and protect our country, which is one of the highest forms of service there is. They are putting their lives on the line to protect the freedom and security of the United States. I take my hat off to them.

To date, Montana has sent almost 700 Reserve forces into Active Duty. Malmstrom Air Force Base has 105 airmen deployed overseas, including 50 members of the 819th Red Horse Squadron. Earlier this month 114 members of the Red Horse Squadron came home after being deployed in southwest Asia for five and a half months. The airmen are supporting six different operations around the world in southwest Asia, supporting no-fly zones in Iraq or in Afghanistan.

About 390 Army Reservists from Montana have been deployed. From Great Falls, the 889th Quartermaster Company unit—with 119 members—recently received mobilization orders along with 100 members of the 4225th U.S. Army Hospital.

From Missoula, 58 soldiers from the 279th Engineer Battalion and 16 soldiers from the 823rd Transportation Detachment have been activated. And out of Billings, 161 members of the 592nd Ordnance Company recently received their orders. Most of these army Reservists will take part in Operation Enduring Freedom.

Montana's Air National Guard has also contributed significant human resources. 210 members of the 120th Fighter Wing have been activated flying in the no-fly zone over Iraq.

Montana's Army National Guard has contributed about 125 Army Guard members, many of which are at other bases throughout the United States taking part in Homeland Security measures.

Thirty-five members of the 443rd Petroleum, Oil and Lubricants Supply Company have been mobilized to assist